

And I would like to, I guess, conclude by making it specific to my district. As my colleagues know, a lot of people know that I am from the Seattle area, and there is assumption that the only reason I care about technology is because, well, Microsoft just happens to be from that area. They happen to actually be from an area quite different from my district. I represent the district south of Seattle, a blue-collar suburb, mostly Boeing workers, some at Weyerhaeuser, a blue-collar area that is about as far away from Microsoft, at least psychologically, as Boston is from it geographically. It is a different area. It is folks who do not necessarily work directly in that tax sector. But I know that those people, the people that I grew up with and now represent, are the ones who are going to most benefit from policies that help America maintain its leadership role in technology. Because the folks at Microsoft, the folks in silicon valley, they have got it, okay? They have got it, and then some. We do not really need to worry about taking care of them. We need to make sure that our economy continues to expand in a way to include people like the people I represent, and these policies that will help technology grow will do just that. They will create more and better jobs and a stronger economy so that opportunity gets spread, and it is not locked into just a few folks.

I really hope that in this country we can understand that this talk about the digital divide really misses the point. There has always been divisions between people who have knowledge and people who do not. What technology gives us the opportunity for is to shrink that divide, not increase it. All you have to have these days to get access to the same information that everybody else in the world has is a relatively cheap PC, which is down to like almost \$500, and a telephone, dial-up service access to the Internet. Technology can be the great equalizer if we build that telecommunications infrastructure that I was talking about. It can create opportunity, not just for the richest of the rich, but most importantly for the poorest of the poor.

That is why we need to be smart about these policies and advance them. We also need to be smart and realize that in advancing any industry, but certainly in the technology industry, we need access to overseas markets.

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Ninety-six percent of the people in the world live some place other than the U.S. That means if we are going to sell stuff we are going to need access to those other markets. We currently consume 20 percent of what the world produces and that is great, but that means the rest of the world is where our markets are available. We need to get access to those things.

I really believe that we have the opportunity to succeed and provide opportunity for the people we represent in this country as we never have before. We are already doing that. I think we can do even better, but we have got to be smart about embracing the policies and recognize that technology is not just about what is going on between Microsoft and AOL or NetScape or anybody. What it is about is creating opportunity for everybody in this country and showing that we can use technology to be that great equalizer, to help lift folks up out of poverty or wherever they want to go to realize these opportunities.

So when people hear us down here talking about these policies about research and development, telecommunications, patent reform, encryption, exports, whatever, understand that it is not just about talking about some specific company. It is talking about the new economy and the direction that our economy is headed; in fact, in many ways is already at. We need to be there, keep up and make sure that we advance the policies that will make sure that that opportunity spreads to all of us, not just to a select few.

I am committed to doing that. The new Democratic coalition that I am proud to be a part of is doing that, and we understand the importance that technology companies and technology policy will play in that. I urge every American to recognize that as well and work hard to advance these policies so we can continue to create the type of opportunity that we have been creating in recent years.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HOLDEN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BERKLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. EHRLICH) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. EHRLICH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, September 24.

Mr. BEREUTER, for 5 minutes, September 24.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, September 24, 1999, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4389. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Sweet Cherries Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Change in Pack Requirements [Docket No. FV99-923-1 FIR] received September 17, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4390. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Modoc and Siskiyou Counties, California, and in All Counties in Oregon, Except Malheur County; Temporary Suspension of Handling Regulations and Establishment of Reporting Requirements [Docket No. FV99-947-1 FIR] received September 17, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4391. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—2,6-Diisopropyl-naphthalene; Temporary Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [OPP-300918; FRL-6381-7] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received September 17, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4392. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Spinosaad; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300920; FRL-6381-9] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received September 17, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4393. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Sulfentrazone; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300903; FRL-6097-8] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received September 17, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4394. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Tebuconazole; Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300919; FRL-6381-6] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received September 17, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4395. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Tebufenozide; Benzoic Acid, 3,5-dimethyl-1- (1,1-